

Congressman Mica Zika Action Summary

On **February 9**, the administration announced it would seek additional emergency appropriations from the Congress to address the Zika virus, but did NOT transmit a formal request.

On **February 17**, Congressman Mica announced Oversight Zika hearing on February 24, 2016.

On **February 18**, Congressman Mica convened committee members and staff to conduct a hearing assessment. After reviewing findings, Congressman Mica determined that the public health agencies were not properly prepared to detect the virus, produce a vaccine or educate the public regarding the symptoms and transmission of Zika.

On **February 22**, almost two weeks after the Administration's initial announcement that it would seek supplemental appropriations to fight Zika, the Administration transmitted its formal request.

On **February 24**, Congressman Mica conducted and chaired one of the first U.S. House Zika hearings in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, titled, *The Zika Virus: Coordination of a Multi-Agency Response*. Witnesses included Dr. Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention; Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health; Dr. John Armstrong, Surgeon General and Secretary of Health for the state of Florida; and Dr. Bill Moreau, Managing Director for Sports Medicine with the United States Olympic Committee.

On **February 24**, Congressman Mica met with Florida Department of Health's Seminole County Administrator Dr. Swannie Jett, who is also President of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), to discuss the response to Zika in Seminole County.

On **April 6**, Mica's efforts helped secure \$589 million of unused and idle Ebola funding to fight Zika. This money was immediately available to be redirected and spent on efforts to control and respond to the spread of the Zika virus.

On **April 12**, the House passed and Congressman Mica supported S. 2512 **Adding Zika Virus to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act**. This bill which became law, awards a voucher from the FDA to the sponsor of a new drug or biological product that is approved to prevent or treat a tropical disease.

On **May 18**, Congressman Mica voted for H.R. 5243, the **Zika Response Appropriations Act**, which would provide the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of State and the Agency for International Development (USAID) an additional \$622.1 million in funding through September 2016, bringing total Zika funding for FY16 to \$1.2 billion.

Rep. Hastings proposed offering an amendment that, depending on the result of a procedural vote, that would expand deficit spending and delay consideration of the matter. Mica voted to proceed with the bipartisan agreement for \$1.2 billion.

On **May 26**, the House passed to the Senate amendment to FY2017 Military Construction-Veterans Affairs and Transportation Housing and Urban Development appropriations bills, which would provide \$1.1 billion in Zika response funding through September 30, 2017.

On **June 1**, Congressman Mica conferred with local representatives of the vaccine manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur, a pharmaceutical research firm, to discuss the status of their Zika vaccine. Sanofi is currently working with the Department of Defense to develop a vaccine for the Zika virus.

On **June 15**, Congressman Mica participated in the *Florida Delegation Hearing on Zika Outbreak Preparedness*, where Florida Members of Congress met with federal, state, and local officials, including the Director of the CDC and local infectious disease and mosquito control experts.

On **June 23**, Congressman Mica supported passage of the FY2017 Military Construction-Veterans Affairs and Transportation Housing and Urban Development appropriations conference report, which passed the House in a bipartisan vote.

On **July 29**, Congressman Mica sent a letter to the President requesting that he expedite the distribution of significant unspent Zika funds. Politico reported that, as of July, only one-sixth of \$589 million repurposed Ebola funding had been allocated by the administration to combat Zika. The Congressman urged the President to get the money to vaccine developers and local agencies fighting the spread of the virus.

On **August 2**, Congressman Mica and the rest of Florida's Congressional delegation sent a letter to Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), regarding the CDC's misallocation of Zika-specific funds being distributed amongst U.S. states and territories. Under the current formula, Florida is receiving only 4.5% of available funds, despite the fact that nearly all of the locally transmitted, or cases spread by mosquitos, in the continental United States have been located in Florida.

On **August 5**, Congressman Mica participated in a conference call with Florida Surgeon General, Dr. Celeste Philip, who briefed participants on efforts to combat Zika in Florida since the announcement 15 cases of local transmission (21 cases as of 8/11).

On **August 12**, Congressman Mica hosted a Zika roundtable with federal, state and local officials to review Central Florida regional cooperative efforts, preparedness and future requirements.